

### **REMARKS**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 18-21, 27-35 and 55. Before submitting the issue fee papers, applicants reviewed the claims and noted that amendments to the claims were necessary to properly define the scope of the claims. As a result, applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination and have amended independent claims 18, 27, 34 and 55 and have added new claims 56-59 to more clearly claim the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

Applicants wish to clarify for the record, if necessary, that any narrowing amendments made to the claims in the present response is not to be construed as a surrender of any subject matter between the original claims and the present claims; rather merely applicants' best attempt at providing one or more definitions of what the applicant believes to be suitable patent protection. In addition, the present claims provide the intended scope of protection that applicant is seeking for this application. Therefore, no estoppel should be presumed, and applicants' claims are intended to include a scope of protection under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

**Authorization**

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Director is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wilmer Cutler Pickering  
Hale and Dorr LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Victor F. Souto", written over a horizontal line.

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